

Shortage in milk production

117. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item published in the 'Asian Age' dated 26th December, 2000 wherein it has been stated that India might face a shortage of milk during the next five years; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to ensure that milk production in the country may not fall in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The news item appearing in the 'Asian Age' dated 26.12.2000 has come to the notice of Government of India. The milk production in India has been consistently rising. As per estimates available with Government, the average annual growth rate of production of milk during the last decade is 4.17%.

It is estimated that, with this level of steady and sustained growth over the next five years, milk production will be adequate to meet the demand as well as to increase the per capita availability of milk in the country. The milk production is projected to reach 95.8 million Metric Tonnes by 2005. For maintaining the level of production, Government of India has been implementing the following schemes:—

- (a) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.
- (b) Assistance to States for Fodder Development.
- (c) Assistance to States for Control of Animals Diseases.
- (d) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication.
- (e) Intrgrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP) in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas.